

CC 96-45

HCEA



THE HARFORD COUNTY EDUCATION ASSOCIATION • MSTA • NEA

BEL AIR SQUARE • SUITE 8C
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EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

April 4, 1997

04/07/97

Mr. Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 814
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Mr. Hundt:

I am writing on behalf of our organization and the public school students with whom our members work to urge you and your fellow commissioners to accept, as offered, the recommendations made by the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service when they come before you for a vote on May 8, 1997.

The importance of providing Internet access and other telecommunication services to our public schools cannot be underestimated. At the same time, these services must be offered at the most reasonable rates possible in order for school systems to have any genuine hope of being able to utilize them. The financial constraints under which all public school systems in the nation operate are well-documented. It would be a disservice of the greatest magnitude to deny, because of cost, full telecommunication services at the very time that our students must have access to them in order to have any reasonable expectations of succeeding in a modern, technological society.

Please share this letter with your colleagues, and please vote on May 8 to accept the recommendations of the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service. Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Terence A. Weaver

Terence A. Weaver

Terence A. Weaver, *President*
Kathy Owens Wyatt, *MSTA UniServ Director*

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WVHTC

Growing Technology in the Mountain State

96-45

04/07/97

April 2, 1997

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman
Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M. Street, NW, Room 844
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Commissioner Hundt:

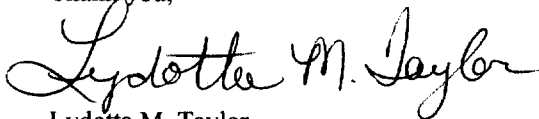
My name is Lydotta M. Taylor and I am the Vice President of Education for the West Virginia High Technology Consortium (WVHTC) Foundation, located in north central West Virginia. I would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all schools and libraries will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that even the poorest schools will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools, and importantly, the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital. This plan is essential for preparing the workforce of tomorrow.

Through nation-wide and state-wide Net Day efforts, more and more West Virginia classrooms come on-line every month. The proposed classroom discounts would allow teachers and students to have access to an unlimited amount of information. This is especially important in a state, such as West Virginia, where many of our schools lack these resources.

On behalf of the WVHTC Foundation, I strongly urge you to support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries. This plan will provide benefits to our children for years to come and is imperative in state's such as West Virginia where geographic and economic boundaries prevail. Thank you in advance for your support.

Thank you,



Lydotta M. Taylor
Vice President of Education

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West Virginia High Technology Consortium Foundation

1000 Technology Drive ■ Suite 1000 ■ Fairmont, WV 26554 ■ Phone 304.366.2577 & 363.5482 ■ FAX 304.366.2699 & 363.5982

04/07/97

April 2, 1997

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M St. NW, Room 814
Washington, D.C., 20054

Dear Chairman Hundt,

As public school teachers, we write in support of meaningful discounts on telecommunications services for schools and libraries so that every school child and life-long learner can have access to the world of information technology. The Telecommunications Act--through its Universal Service Fund provisions--mandates the development of special discount rates for all schools and libraries so that they can secure services at affordable prices.

Educators know that advanced telecommunications services are important to improving learning, sparking the imagination and leveling the playing field for all of our nation's children. Affordable access to technology in all classrooms and libraries will assure that our children and life-long learners can connect with the technology they would need to compete in today's and tomorrow's workforce. Advanced telecommunications services in the classroom will also create informed and skilled consumers of new technology well into the 21st century.

Last November, the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service sent to the FCC a set of recommendations for implementing the Universal Service Fund provisions related to schools and libraries. These recommendations would give our learning institutions significant discounts on all services that are commercially available, with deeper discounts for those schools and libraries least able to pay and more expensive to service. All schools would get discounts on connections to classrooms and Internet connectivity, both of which are essential to providing the most advanced learning opportunities to the greatest number of students.

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We urge your support for the Joint Board's recommendations. Taken as a whole, they will provide affordable discounts for a full range of services, and give schools and libraries flexibility in choosing the services needed to meet each community's diverse needs. Most importantly, these provisions, if adopted by the FCC, will make advanced technology for learning available to all Americans.

Thank You,

Undersigned Faculty and Staff Members

West Clinton Elem

(Name of school)

Davis County School District, Utah

Annette Petersen

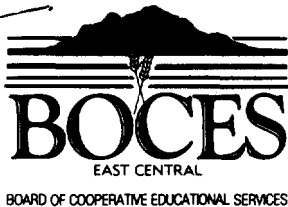
Carol Harn

Stacey Shenda

Debra Kuzler

Esther Shurtl

CC96-45



Joining forces to enrich
educational opportunities for Colorado

820 2nd Street
Box 910
Limon, Colorado 80828
719-775-2342

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April 3, 1997

04/07/97

Bennett School Dist.
615 Seventh St.
Bennett, CO 80102
(303) 644-3234

Strasburg School Dist.
P.O. Box 207
Strasburg, CO 80136
(303) 622-9211

Byers School Dist.
P.O. Box 420
Byers, CO 80103
(303) 822-5292

Deer Trail School Dist.
P.O. Box 129
Deer Trail, CO 80105
(303) 769-4421

Agate School Dist.
P.O. Box 118
Agate, CO 80101
(719) 764-2751

Limon School Dist.
P.O. Box 249
Limon, CO 80828
(719) 775-2350 (H.S.)
(719) 775-2351 (Elem.)

Genoa-Hugo School Dist.
P.O. Box 247
Hugo, CO 80821
(719) 743-2428

Karval School Dist.
P.O. Box 272
Karval, CO 80823
(719) 446-5311

Arriba-Flagler School Dist.
P.O. Box 218
Flagler, CO 80815
(719) 765-4684

Hi-Plains School Dist.
P.O. Box 8
Vona, CO 80861
(970) 664-2616 (H.S.)
(970) 664-2636 (Elem.)

Stratton School Dist.
P.O. Box 266
Stratton, CO 80836
(719) 348-5369 (H.S.)
(719) 348-5521 (Elem.)

Bethune School Dist.
P.O. Box 132
Bethune, CO 80805
(719) 346-7513

Burlington School Dist.
P.O. Box 369
Burlington, CO 80807
(719) 346-8737

Kit Carson School Dist.
P.O. Box 185
Kit Carson, CO 80825
(719) 962-3219

Woodlin School Dist.
S. Rt. Box 185
Woodrow, CO 80757
(970) 386-2223

Arickaree School Dist.
12155 County Road NN
Anton, CO 80801
(970) 383-2202

Cheyenne Wells School Dist.
P.O. Box 577
Cheyenne Wells, CO 80810
(719) 767-5866

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 844
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I am Executive Director of the East Central Board of Cooperative Educational Services, a consortium of 17 rural school districts. I would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all school districts and education consortia will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board decision will guarantee that all school districts will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools, and importantly, the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital. This plan is essential for preparing the workforce of tomorrow.

The schools of East Central BOCES plan to use the discounts, both for internet and distance learning services. Because of great distances and a multitude of private phone companies, our rates presently are prohibitive. Several of our schools must cross two or three phone company boundaries to get to a destination. This greatly increases cost.

Our students need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools.

Sincerely,

Fred Patterson
Executive Director

FP/jb

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EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

**SHAWNEE HEIGHTS
UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 450**

Central Services Facility
4401 S.E. Shawnee Heights Road
Tecumseh, Kansas 66542-9799
(913) 379-5800 Fax: (913) 379-5810

Dr. Stephen G. McClure, Superintendent of Schools
Rebecca L. Lisher, Assistant Superintendent - Instruction
Shirley J. Martin, Assistant to the Superintendent for Business
Kyle Goodwin, Director of Special Education

April 1, 1997

04/07/97

The Honorable Reed Hundt
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 814
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I am superintendent of Shawnee Heights School District in suburban Topeka, KS. The district is in the process of making a major technological jump to better serve its students and better prepare them for the next century. In order for this to happen, we need your assistance and your full support of the "E-Rate" for education.

This year Shawnee Heights U.S.D. 450 was able to place Southwestern Bell Cellular "ClassLink" in one elementary building. It is a cellular system, whereby each faculty member, principal, nurse, head custodian, and head cook have cellular phones and have their own cells within the building. Calls that go out of the building go out over land lines. They recommend one land line installed for every five teachers. That is \$40.00 per month, per line, or \$480.00 per five teachers. A survey has shown it does save teachers approximately 15 minutes a day, and greatly increases both the parent-teacher communication, and the communication between the faculty within the building. To expand to other buildings, the district will need to install new phone systems with voice mail so the instructional process is uninterrupted, but is an access at the teacher's convenience. This system has been very helpful when children are hurt on the playground; the nurse can immediately be reached. Teachers can have students call parents when an assignment has been done extremely well. It also helps in matters like custody cases where teachers are being called repeatedly during a custody hearing. At the secondary complex, Southwestern Bell Cellular estimated a cost of \$78,000 to equip the "ClassLink" system plus the new phone systems and the additional land line per every five teachers.

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A Distance Learning room is being installed at the high school. Next year, the "TeleKansas" line will cost \$1,155.00 per month for this room. A 56K line has been installed into the high school for better internet access. The district is in the process of installing alarm systems in the elementary schools and central office, which will require telephone lines.

Needless to say, the quality of education Shawnee Heights can provide is directly related to the amount of access the district can give its students via telephone services. In the last four years in Kansas, school district budgets have lost 11% to inflation. Needless to say, "E-Rate" would greatly help the district's efforts to the expansion in the use of telecommunications which are currently paralyzed other than through bond issues and special monies.

I believe this is also good for the telephone companies. They do not realize this at this point, but for example, Pepsi Cola and Coca-Cola were in a struggle for a contract to put the pop machines at our high school. How much do you think they would give you in a business; so much per case? What they have done at our high school is that they give us \$2.70 per case, plus \$10,000 to help with lighting at the soccer complex, and \$10,000 to help better equip the journalism room, for a contract which runs through 2003. They know life-long habits are often set during these school years. The same thing is true with the telephone. If students use telephone accessing in school, they are more likely to utilize it the rest of their lives.

If a student is enrolled in Distance Learning classes in high school, the student is more inclined to be enrolled in Distance Learning classes outside of high school. I believe the telephone companies should view this as a marketing situation the same way Pepsi and Coke view school contracts. It is important to realize that even with the "E-Rate," if the district properly serves the students, Shawnee Heights will probably have increased telecommunication costs four years from now.

I know the telecommunication industry is well organized and will make their views known. I want to thank you in advance for considering my views.

Sincerely,



Dr. Stephen G. McClure
Superintendent of Schools

SGM/ab